

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

On Page 1, above line 1, please insert the following paragraphs:

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Applicants claim priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 of German Application No. 102 49 767.2 filed October 24, 2002. Applicants also claim priority under 35 U.S.C. §365 of PCT/DE2003/003556 filed October 23, 2003. The international application under PCT article 21(2) was not published in English. --

Please replace the paragraph which begins at the bottom of page 8 (line 20) and continues to page 9, with the following paragraph:

-- A three-dimensional fundamental representation of the attachment of the leaf springs 3 on the frame 4 and on the base plate 5 is shown in Fig. 3. The test table 1, with its sample holder 1.1, is merely indicated with a dot-dash line. It sits on two longitudinal supports 2, whereby each longitudinal support 2 is connected with a leaf spring 3 standing vertically, at its two ends, by way of attachment elements 2.1 that are merely indicated. The two longitudinal supports can additionally be reinforced with one another by way of a crosswise support 2.2 (or by way of a plate, not shown), on which the test table sits. The frame 4, which consists of two U-shaped supports 4.1, is disposed on the

base plate 5. Each support 4.1 sits on the base plate ~~4~~ 5 with two vertical shanks 4.2 that are parallel to one another; a horizontal shank 4.3 extends between the two vertical shanks 4.2 of a support 4.1. The upper ends of two leaf springs 3 are attached to each horizontal shank 4.3 of a support 4.1, by means of upper clamping jaws S_0 . --

Please replace the first full paragraph which begins on page 10 (line 10) with the following paragraph:

-- The device for producing the lateral force and the normal force, the indenter, as well as the ~~LVDs~~ LVDTs and the oil damping, are not shown in Fig. 3. --